BULLETIN from

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service & 38 Bank Street

VOL. XIV March 15, 1946 No. 6

FICTION

MUST BOOK

May 23

Maugham, W. Somerset THEN AND NOW Doubleday $2.50

Not even Maugham's name can bridge the gap between what his readers expect from him and what he gives them in this pedestrian novel about Machiavelli and "the Duke", Caesar Borgia. I found it incredibly dull- the affectation of parallels indicated by the title apply only to basic human values, human frailties, evidenced in a man who thought of himself first as a patriot, but who was primarily a great opportunist. Maugham draws him too as thinking himself a great lover, but there too, he was forced by circumstances beyond even his ingenuity to yield the fruit of his labors to his young protege, Piero. There is substantial mead of history here- but I have always found the conflicts of Italy's city states and protectorates difficult to follow and Maugham has not succeeded in rescuing their internal bickerings, tradings and shifting loyalties out of confusion. The story and characterizations are paper thin- even though the usually dependable Maugham craftsmanship limps. Only his name puts it in this category- there's always a market for names. Literary Guild Selection for June.

A DARK HORSE

April 24

Seifert, Shirley CAPTAIN GRANT Lippincott $3.00

** This is tops in reading interest. To what extent the facts of U.S. Grant's youth have been embroidered doesn't seem to matter. Shirley Seifert has made her portrait in terms so convincing, so plausible, so deeply rooted in a sympathetic understanding of those forces that made Grant the man he was, that he emerges a fully realized person. One is apt to think of "Life Begins At 40" where Grant is concerned. This makes the reader live wholly in those early formative years, the years at West Point, reluctantly undertaken by a country boy who wanted to raise horses; the years of slow motion advance, impeded by the dislike and misunderstanding of a few in authority, by unfortunate and ill founded gossip, by bad luck in military assignments. But warmed, too, by friendships that counted through life, and by the one great love which withstood separation, disillusionment and poverty- between 'Lyss and Julian Dent Grant. Through these pages one meets as boys and men people like Sherman and Longstreet and Ewell, Robert E. Lee, Pope and McClellan, and many another comrade who later held posts of distinction in the war which begins just as "Captain Grant" accepts the lowly assignment as commander of the 7th district regiment Illinois Volunteers. The story has many of the qualities that made *Immortal Wife* by Irving Stone a huge success. I wish it had a title with an equal sales appeal. But don't miss it.

A SPOT SELECTION: A new Dorothy Macardle, THE UNFORESEEN (Doubleday); Elizabeth Page's WILDERNESS ADVENTURE (Rinehart); a new Helen MacInnes- HORIZON (Little, Brown); and for more scapegrace adventure, Axel Kielland's DANGEROUS HONEYMOON (Little, Brown.)

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

April 4

Irvine, Helen Douglas TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION Doubleday $2.50

A shadowed revival of a romance in Scotland in the forties of the last century, as a dinner party many years later forces a return to the youth of Simon Hepburn and Katharine Lamond, the girl who had loved him. Charming, assured and ambitious, Simon had been a poor relation of the wealthy, titled Lamonds, bringing with him, on a first visit to their home in Fife, the reminder of a past feud and an injustice done to Simon's father. Attracted by Katharine, she falls in love with him, unaware of the hardness in Simon which will enable him- with no regrets- to allow their engagement to be broken, and to marry, in her place, the cold, practical Leonie, and to bring disillusion not only to Katharine but to two others. This has a quiet awareness and attraction, a certain faint fragility, which will recommend it to discerning readers, but I question if it will have as wide a market as her last, 77 *Willow Road.*

April 19

Dekobra, Maurice PARADISE IN MONTPARNASSE Bernard Ackerman $2.50

The very light romances and rumpuses of an American in Paris between wars, as Sydney Merrill, just out of the Army in 1918, stays on in Paris to marry Monique. He has trouble with her father, whose home is to be used as a museum commemorating a famous grandfather of his; he has more trouble when that grandfather provides a source of blackmail because of former indiscretions; he assists in the marriage of his sister-in-law to a movie star; he almost slips- extra maritally- himself, but is glad he doesn't; and he ends his record of the Parisian years with nostalgia for the contentment they brought. By a once well known continental, literary roué, this is a little thin and very faded.

April 24

Keen, Raya SHE SHALL HAVE MUSIC Lippincott $2.50

A well developed story of the life of a dancer, and her world of ballet, as she solves the problem of the artist versus economics, and recovers from a series of setbacks to live up to her ideals. Zina Reed, whose real ability is recognized by her teacher, is successful her first public appearance, but the depression cuts off all chances of engagements. The opening of Empire (Radio) City gives her a job, but with the grind of the daily shows, the backbiting and criticism of the ballet group, Zina surrenders to apathy, there,and in her marriage to healthy, indulgent Tom. Tom's extra-marital activities, her own recognition of her need to go back to real dancing, make her give up her counterfeit life and return to her old teacher. An inspiration for a ballet and its performance crowns her work. Direct, simple, and quite real.

~~April 25~~ pp? BoM 7/25 August reserve

Laxness, Halldor INDEPENDENT PEOPLE Knopf $3.00

A sprawling, unselective, overlong folk novel of the Icelandic crofters, of sombre and superstition-ridden peoples, living from hand to mouth and yet stubbornly independent, preferring to slay their own rather than take from others. Here, in grim, savage terms, is the story of Bjartur, a hard, dour man, his wives, his children, and

the strange link that bound him to the first born, whom he casts out when she comes back to him- pregnant. Here too, is an illustration of the backwardness, the brutalization, which is at the base of his stubborn insistence on achieving the status of an independent man, a "lone-worker", which is only another form of bondage. A bleak and bitter book, with little to interest or attract the American reader, this is by the author of *Salka Valka* which Houghton, Mifflin published in 1936.

April 26

Nolan, Jeannette C. GATHER YE ROSEBUDS Appleton-Century $2.50

The nostalgia of *Centennial Summer* for a family story of less than the usual fluff, more than the usual humor, as the Camerons' problems are solved in 1910, in a small Indiana town. Major Cameron, after 45 years still true to the Confederate cause, is seduced into an oil swindle. Miss Amy is concerned, but not worrying, about her household. Rose does not recognize her true love because she is blinded by the charms of a visiting ladykiller. Sidney is far too inquiring and determined that nothing wrong shall happen to her family; Jeff dreams of cartooning, but is imprisoned not only in a bank but in the arms of a clinging little moron; little Hannah remains steady in spite of the many worries she accumulates; young Beau, the baby son, is not yet a part of the family circle. It is Sidney who wins Jeff his chance to get away from his chains, who discovers that Rose's infatuation must end and forces the man in question to leave. It is the Major's complicity in the oil swindle that brings his sister on the scene to work out a happy ending, complete with wedding bells for Rose and the right suitor. In not too serious a vein, this has a fairly unassuming, avoiding the coy, appeal.

Thielen, Benedict THE LOST MEN Appleton-Century $2.75

Veterans' progress, from the last war to 17 years later, as their inability to relate the splendid past to the civilian present drives them into a shadowland of memory and despair,- this is the tragedy of "lost men" against the drama of a hurricane on the Florida Keys. There is Thomas, who has found that you cannot escape the shame of cowardice; Lockert who tries to find again the pride he knew, as a sergeant, in violence, in women; Lindstrom, whose conviction that the men he has killed have made him a murderer, fails to impress anyone- and all are wary of the threat of craziness. Lockert, just returned from a Tortugas jail after trouble with another man's wife, goes to her again and is prevented by Lindstrom from killing her in an excess of hysterical emotion. With Thomas, and three others, they wait for the train to evacuate them as the hurricane approaches, and the storm ends their wasted lives- all save Lindstrom's.... "Ghosts of a soon forgotten past", (to be remembered soon again?), living on the levels of experience, self knowledge, futility,- left-overs consumed with fear, distrust, and hate, existing in hopeless waiting,-- these men and their stories are a bitter finis to war years, and the brooding recital of their lack of adjustment is accompanied by a vivid picture of a storm's mounting fury. Effective.

May 1

Baur, Betty THIS IS GOODBYE Lippincott $2.50

Along formula lines, an emotional, but readable, story of women at war as a cross section of an aircraft plant- and particularly three girls- provides the details, industrial and personal. Here are the women with families, the juke-box youngsters,

the few men left, making up the personnel of the plant. Here too is Catherine, who wanted an aircraft job as a career; Marta who helped build planes only because of Steve, her husband, a rear gunner; and PeeWee, who wants the money- for her child. The factory life, the discrimination against the women because they are women, the too long hours, is subordinate to the individual, intimate stories of the three, as Marta, thinking Steve is dead, tries to suicide, PeeWee, out of lonesomeness has an affair,- and Catherine falls in love for the first time but goes on to higher places. Adequate.

May 9

Cooper, Page-*Ed.* GREAT HORSE STORIES Doubleday
~~$3.00~~ 3.50

An anthology of horse stories selected for story- not sentimental- values, which with the Paul Brown drawings (82) is a dependable item. From the demon land of Mongolia to the open range, the English hunts, the Grand National, here are horses- all kinds- war, police, wild stallions, polo ponies, chasers... There are narrative ballads by Quiller-Couch, Bret Harte; genealogical accounts by Phil Stong and others; and just plain stories including Esther Forbes' *Breakneck Hill*, Will James' *The Seeing Eye*, Kipling's *The Maltese Cat*, and Felix Salten, W.H. Hudson, Clement Wood, Tolstoy, among the more familiar contributors. A varied selection, in sound taste, which will also attract a young audience.

Quayle, Anthony EIGHT HOURS FROM ENGLAND Doubleday
$2.50

An almost negligible fictional frame for what must have been authentic experience in a rather unknown sector of the war- Albania. Overton, a young English major, is sent to the Balkans as an agent, an agitator, to stir up the natives against the Germans. Here is the full record of that mission, of isolated, dangerous days; of cold and damp and privation; of the difficulties in lining up the Partisans, more interested in their own private, civil war, than in fighting the Germans; of lack of supplies, though promised, and eventually the failure of that mission as he is forced to clear out. Not perhaps the intrigue and action promised by the publishers, but a genuine and graphic account of one man's war. Masculine appeal.

May 10

Delehanty, Elizabeth YEAR ONE Dutton
$2.50

Year One is the sun porch of a military hospital harboring many of the mutilated, physical and mental, of this war. Here, with less of the severity, but much of the grimness of *Ward Twenty*, is the concentrated story of three- a doctor- a nurse- and a patient. Dr. Thorne, a great healer, and Mary, the nurse with a quiet, patient strength, have the devotion of all the men; Andy, an hysterical mute, is their particular concern as they sense in him unusual power and promise, and as Mary falls in love with him. Andy becomes a source of contention in the hospital as Dr. Mosley, subordinate to Thorne, ignorantly suspects Andy of malingering, tries to break his mutism by rough, shock methods, fails, and then starts a whispering campaign against Dr. Thorne which causes his dismissal and transfer. In the few weeks left him at the hospital Thorne succeeds with his gentler, patient treatment, Andy recovers his speech and his spirit, and aids in the exposure of a psychopathic killer. By the author of *Close Game*, *Arise From Sleep*, this is effective in its tension, its compassion.

May 13

Forbes, Murray HOLLOW TRIUMPH Ziff-Davis
$2.75

The highly plotted, seasoned, and rather badly written story of an egotist and his perfect crime, as Henry Mueller, who wants power and money but doesn't want to work for it, finds an answer in brilliant Dr. Bartok, a psychiatrist, whom he resembles physically and whose science he has studied. Mueller carefully cases his victim, his habits,- murders him- and steps into his shoes. Women at first place him on a tightrope as he takes on Bartok's two mistresses, but he handles them with ease, at the same time carrying on the lucrative practice without detection. However, when the dead man's niece appears, Mueller loses his head for the first time, seduces her, is responsible for her death- by abortion- and the suicide of a colleague. Unmoved by all this, he enlists in the Army, achieves further fame, but gets his payoff when he realizes that Mueller is till the nonentity- and that Bartok has acquired the power and the glory. This makes possible an almost impossible crime, has a certain curiosity appeal, if on the cheap side.

May 15

McNulty, John THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK Little, Brown
$2.00

From the *New Yorker*, this series of episodes centering around local gin mills, where the boss, the bartender, the waiter, the chef, the handyman, the hackies and customers contribute their share of barroom badinage. These 17 sketches crystallize the incidents, excitements, conversations and arguments this type of drinking spot inspires, stick to the vernacular in parading the late hours of early drinkers, chronicle a new set of big city characters. There are eccentrics, Grogan, the bookmaker, who has a colorful past and varied present; Paddy, the bartender, who saves the handyman's life; the boss, who can bear almost everything, even bums; the kind-hearted truck driver, the special-fare cabby, the fixer; there are slumming parties who have their "quaint" thrown back at them; there is a longsuffering landlady, an atheist's accident, etc. etc. Masculine humor and phonographic reproduction give these a special quality of appeal, that is somewhat reminiscent of- but superior to- say, Damon Runyon. Illustrated by Beatrice Tobias.

Margetson, Elisabeth MANY ARE THE HEARTS M.S. Mill
$2.50

The emotional entanglements of English Carey, as she first goes through with marriage to Rafe whom she'd loved years before, and who returns from India an aged, broken man. Marrying him out of conscience, she gets her reprieve when Rafe dies- on their honeymoon- and Carey goes to France as a Red Cross volunteer. There she falls in love with a susceptible, deceptive American who sours Carey on all men- even David, a flier, and a nice boy. Brushing him off time and again, Carey finally recovers from her hatred of men and admits her love to David. This carries on in quite a way, even to the extent of such endearing terms as "girlish pash", but it may do for rent.

May 16

Kielland, Axel DANGEROUS HONEYMOON Little, Brown
$2.50

* High hearted and fairly harum scarum adventure which starts off amusingly, ends up improbably, but provides some entertainment en route as Ann Dickson, living by her wits and under aliases when she is caught in Germany, meets stolid, Swedish Gosta in a cellar during an air raid in Berlin. Gosta decides to take her out of

Germany with him as his wife, in name only. Ann, smuggling out a code message, gets involved with the Gestapo whom Gosta highhands, circumvents, and eventually manhandles- forcing an emergency exit. On the heels of a general alarm they jump a troop train, pose as Nazi agents, fall into the hands of the Partisans, fly to Greece, rescue a Greek village, and eventually get to Sweden where the marriage becomes a fait accompli. None of the sharper touches of his first, *Shape of Danger*, but plenty of bounce.

May 22

McSorley, Edward OUR OWN KIND Harper $2.50

A first novel, without the melodrama of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* to which it can however be compared, which has the honesty and sincerity of realtiy in its portrait of the Irish-Americans of Providence in the years 1912-1915, whose roots are in their homeland, whose genius is for the dramatic, the ludicrous, who know whirlpools of frustration, and who dream of the opportunities in their new country. Old Ned's dreams for his orphaned grandson, Willie, are part of his life, for Willie is to have an education and a career, and Ned gives way to nothing or no one to accomplish this. Ned moves the family to South Providence when the scandal of Willie's arrest seems insurmountable in their old surroundings, and there, through the intelligent, kindly interest of a young priest, through a growing pride in his own achievements, Willie recognizes what his grandfather is driving at, and determines to make the old man's dream come true. A warm, sometimes exciting, portrait of a family, a believable rather than theatrical portrait of a community, and a moving relationship between boy and old man, this should- as a first novel- win critical interest.

Kahn, Joan OPEN HOUSE Lippincott $2.50

A nice quality for this story of a first year in New York, of an interim of experimentation, finger burning, and resolution, as Kate and Chess, just out of college, take an apartment together, go job and man hunting in a nice way. Chess is self assured, acquisitive (changing fiances frequently), lands a job on a magazine, develops a social circle quickly. Kate, more serious, and much more innocent, only can get a white collar job down town, but does catch the interest of Simon, magazine editor and roué, and Alex, who edits in a publishing house. Chess imposes on Kate, makes open house of the apartment, shifts her men and tries to angle in on Kate's, and eventually decides to leave the apartment. By this time Kate is over her attraction to Simon and ready for marriage to Alex. The experiences of two young hopefuls which are recognizable, reminiscent, and very pleasantly done.

~~May 23~~ 6/6

Macardle, Dorothy THE UNFORESEEN Doubleday $2.50

I think this a better novel than *The Uninvited*, but people who want the eerie ghostliness of that will find this too scientific- shall we say? For the plot hinges on the power commonly called "second sight"- the fear and menace which that power causes in its possessor, the charming Mrs. Wilde. Attempting to conceal it, she almost wrecks the happiness of her beloved daughter; attempting later to use it as a weapon, she misinterprets what she foresees and almost costs Nan her life. And in between, there's set a growing romance, a story of many incidents impinging on this strange power, all told against the background of an Irish countryside, of a mountain cottage not far from Dublin. It's good reading- and I found it more convincing- though still in the realm of the search for new understanding of the psychic powers. She writes extraordinarily well.

May 23

Mitchell, Edwin Valentine-*Ed.* GREAT FISHING STORIES Doubleday
$2.50 ✓

A famous bookman collects, and writes a foreword to 18 finny (and sometimes funny) tales, where Hemingway as well as Zane Grey, De Maupassant and John Taintor Foote, Henry Ward Beecher and Philip Wylie, R.D.Blackmore and Henry S. Van Dyke (and others) are represented. Stories of trout, salmon, shark, tarpon, of Scotland and Florida, of streams and oceans, of adults and children, of danger and guile- these have their place in the sportsman's library and contribute to Isaac Waltonian lore.

Announcing a New Edition of

Cannon, Le Grand A MIGHTY FORTRESS Henry Holt
$2.75

Issued by another publisher in 1937, this story of New England in the 1800's will be extensively promoted and advertised. By the author of *Look to the Mountain.*

May 23

MacInnes, Helen HORIZON Little, Brown
$2.00

* A more subdued, more severe story than any she has done, again a story of the underground resistance if more restricted in movement and conjecturably less popular. The Dolemites set the background for the escape of Peter Lennox from a prison camp after the Italian capitulation, for his hibernation- through a long winter- in the Tyrol where the months of inaction bring boredom, bitterness, a sense of impotence. Finally, as spring breaks, the Germans take over the village, send two men aliassed as Americans to test out Peter- whom they mistrust. Peter circumvents the Germans, and with Mahlknecht, Underground leader, goes higher in the mountains where the Resistance is organized, takes off on a mission which gives him confidence and the hope of return to the girl who has helped him. A slight tale, but a sure touch.

Page, Elizabeth WILDERNESS ADVENTURE 5/23 Rinehart
$2.50

This book by the author of *Tree of Liberty* has been long anticipated but I'm afraid many will share my sense of anticlimax. To be sure, there is again the absorption in the period and background and atmosphere, and Elizabeth Page is a sound historian and chronicler. But where *Tree of Liberty* had imaginative qualities and the inspiration of Jefferson, this is just another story of "wilderness adventure", of Indian capture, of conflict for the Mississippi valley, of interracial hates and intersectional strife. It is again a story of "the Howards of Virginia", but in the earlier period of British colonialism, as John Howard and his son Jo set out to trace down the girl captive of marauding Indians, whom Jo loves. Their adventures take them on far exploration; they are captives of the Indians, the French, the British; they are imprisoned, time and again; they are separated and finally reunited as the story ends happily for all. Not an important contribution to colonial history-- but an excellent chance for High School plus sales.

May ~~27~~ 10

O'Flaherty, Liam LAND Random House
$2.50

Liam O'Flaherty has written many novels of Irish historical background, some of which like *Famine* and *The Informer* achieved high credit and critical praise. But in *Land* the author has written with one, if not both eyes, on the movies, and in spite of an interesting theme- built around the Irish origin of the word "boycott" when a group of Irish patriots set out and successfully isolated one of the English landlords, he has concocted little more than a second rate melodrama. His name however may carry some prestige- especially among Irish readers.

TOO BAD- TOO LATE

Baker, Frank EMBERS Coward McCann
$2.50

A contrariwise author, who can mix reality with moonshine, grimness with gaiety, does more than his best in wise, and/or crazy, Thomas Trevelyan Embers, an Englishman, who lives out the end of his days in the pavilion on the Pennington estate, brings happiness, sorrow, faith and courage to those who know him. Living in squalor, hunger and a poverty only of the pocketbook, Embers remains a curiosity of the community, vilified by the unregenerate and ignorant, revered by a struggling musician, astounding his landlord and his family. Mrs. Chavasse, visiting the Penningtons, turns out to be Embers' lost love, of whom he has dreamed all his life. She finds tragedy in seeing him, in recalling her romance with him which had the wrong ending, and at last when she does visit him, making his dream come true, he loses all zest for life and arranges his own death. Spectral, slim, this is less bogged down than *Mr. Allenby Loses The Way*, less imaginative than *Miss Hargreaves*, more intensely concerned with the importance of the individual in relation to the world. Special market. (Publ.)

Pratt, Theodore VALLEY BOY Duell, Sloan & Pearce
$2.50

A sometimes pathetic, sometimes almost improbable, story of a boy seeking security, conformity and love, that is backgrounded in the strange effect that the San Fernando Valley has on its inhabitants. Johnny Bird, hating his family's love for their horses, their insistence on his wearing cowboy boots, on his talking Spanish and other of their "book" raising ideas, makes a companion of a trained seal lion until Kit and Steve come along. Kit, pregnant but not married to Steve, fills Johnny's life, gives him what he seeks, tries to turn Johnny back to his parents. When the sea lion is to be taken to New York, Johnny tries to kill himself, but the sea lion saves him and Johnny's little confused world is at last put right. Almost too much eccentricity in the adult world but Johnny and Oscar, the sea lion, are OK, and there are many pleasant moments, though the whole is unimportant and ineffective. (Publ.)

WESTERN AND SOUTHERN EXPOSURES

March 11

Stout, Rex & Greenfield, Louis, *Eds.* RUE MORGUE NO. 1 Creative Age
$2.75

A collection of short stories from pulp to pop vehicles (*Argosy, Weird Tales, Detective Tales, Speed Detective*, etc. and *Cosmo*, the *Atlantic*) which, with the exception of one or two, introduces new names and moderately good murder-mystery material. Approving the editor's spot selection, there is the irony of *Manhattan Manhunt*, the rugged revenge of *Midnight Rendezvous;* we also liked the more finished *The Cat's Eye* (John Van Druten) which in its modulation quite outdoes the more elaborate hankypanky of such stories as *The Green God's Ring, Death In The Tank*. There's variety and versatility here, and enough entertainment though not top quality.

April 4

Gordon, Mildred THE LITTLE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE Doubleday
$2.00

A female corpse-stalker (not voluntary) has her nosiness rewarded by more than one moment of danger as she is confounded by the strange goings on at the Luz del Sol ranch in Arizona. Three murders, a complicated financial and inheritance set-up, the chicanery of a fraudulent mining company, and the discovery of a really valuable metal, all contribute to the complications that Kay encounters, but with a chance to dig into the past, she gets the right answer- and misses death herself. Primarily petticoat.

April 18

Upfield, Arthur W. THE DEVIL'S STEPS Doubleday $2.00

Napoleon Bonaparte continues his sober sleuthing career, as he clears up the mysteries and murders taking place at a hotel near Melbourne. Two corpses, and hints of drugs, escaped German high command, give Bony more than one question that needs answering, but his efficient tracking puts the Melbourne police in their place, adds to his growing reputation. Steady.

April 24

Kyd, Thomas BLOOD IS A BEGGAR Lippincott $2.00

Murder at a University, with a professor killed as he is giving a lantern lecture, gives detective Sam Phelan, and the whole police department, some lessons in intramural policies, politics, pedants, personnel, and problem students. Phelan is forced to plan new and better mousetraps to get his victim. Logical lie-detecting.

May 9

Bennett, Margot TIME TO CHANGE HATS Doubleday $2.00

Inventive investigation of a murder in a rural English village as John Davies, on his first case, applies himself to the question of who killed Mrs. Lavender, a widow on the make, who shot at rich, old Mr. Wisney, and who left Death cards-frightening the community. Exposing several, secret relationships, Davies finally gets his proof by means of an intelligence questionnaire, closes a neat and nasty case. With cerebral rather than physical properties, this is slow but sure. Crime Club.

Leslie, Jean TWO FACED MURDER Doubleday $2.00

Professor Peter Ponsonby's second case, as he operates within a closed campus circle on the disappearance and death of a faculty wife, the possible motives and motivators. With Mara, his fiancee, Peter does the contact work for the police, by his investigation precipitates a second murder, fails in his attempt to smoke out the killer, but simultaneously with the police gets his criminal and the cause. An engaging, enterprising sleuth team make this pleasant, if not too puzzling.

May 22

Wentworth, Patricia PILGRIM'S REST Lippincott $2.00

The unhurried Miss Silver's hypothetical hats, and resultant rabbits, again materialize into direct proof as she goes into action unearthing the deeds and doers behind the series of hard-to-explain incidents occurring at Pilgrim's Rest. She fights the superstition against selling the place, she untangles four killings, and she sets the police on their way to apprehend the murderer. Dependable English.

For Special Mention

There's nothing too obvious here, but for certain markets, and above average, are Anne B. Fisher's NO MORE A STRANGER (Stanford Univ. Press); Percy Knauth's GERMANY IN DEFEAT (Knopf); Alma Mahler's GUSTAV MAHLER (Viking) for musical circles; and, for diversion, John Bainbridge's LITTLE WONDER (Reynal & Hitchcock).

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

March 25

Zuill, William — BERMUDA JOURNEY — Coward McCann $3.50

Bermuda, today, after the war years, in a contemplative, ambulatory guide that is brimming with history, incidents, local legend and landmarks. There is a very definite feel of the place and its people, in these descriptions of the various sections of the island- Hamilton, the Eastern and Western Parishes, the islands, reefs, sounds and harbors- and there are many interesting curiosities revealed. You get the picture of Bermuda before it became a tourist haven, before this war, and what is happening now, and an idea of the physical changes, with the new bases and airfield construction, and the realization that the changes are permanent.... .... Covering all highways and byways, nooks and crannies, folkways, this does not supplant Strode's *The Story of Bermuda* but rather complements, and supplements the earlier book, and constitutes an up to date background book for travel there. Illus. by Scott White- and also maps.

Fisher, Anne B. — NO MORE A STRANGER — Stanford Univ.Press $3.00

* A few months in the life of Robert Louis Stevenson, September to December 23, 1879, spent in Monterey, California, where he had followed from Paris Fanny Osbourne, a married woman and mother- ten years his senior, whom he courted to the delight of the small town gossips and finally won. Because of the lack of documentary evidence there is actually little of the courtship, but the man and the locale are well delineated. Here is the sickly, romantic, impractical Stevenson who charmed children with his fairy princesses and castles of sand, went treasure hunting with local Chinese Tim, listened to the soulful love songs of the Indians and fiery Spanish, the tales of the Portugese whaler, attended the colurful mission festivals, reigned as Monterey's humorist and conversationalist. These are four struggling, formative months in Stevenson's life when he found a wife and friends with faith in his ability and which provided the material for his future success. Scholarly, well-documented, but delightful reading.

April 15

Orwell, George — DICKENS, DALI AND OTHERS — Reynal & Hitchcock $2.50

Ten essays, consistently controversial, that range widely between a long one, in six parts, on Dickens, shorter ones on boys' weeklies', H.G.Wells, comic postcards,Kipling, Yeats, Dali, Koestler, detective stories, Wodehouse. In answering criticism, in defining his own theories, the author provides stimulating ideas, on modern trends, American influence, current values, and literary criticism- among others. The Kipling and Dickens articles re-evaluate the men and their books in terms of their times and mental atmospheres; the Yeats and Dali are book reviews; the Wodehouse is a defense of the man as a Quisling and the reasons he could not be one; the Koestler and Wells examine their failure to maintain their status; the boys' weeklies and detective story a study of the symptoms of the moral degeneration of these days; the comic postcards a defense of the open vulgarity of their kind. A personal, serious, but never dull analysis that has a definite worth in its challenges, in its integrity.

April 18

Reynolds, Reginald CLEANLINESS AND GODLINESS Doubleday $3.00

A curiosity, that in fastidious style, chronicles the history, scandals, and lore of sanitary hygiene - water closets and plumbing. In almost ecclesiastical prose, the subject manages to include philology, archaeology, psychology, literature, art, sociology, as well as sewage, privy conduct, drains and engineering, and for a book devoted to the unheroic and noisome, it manages to maintain a highly amusing, sometimes brilliant, approach. The apparent research on the baths, aqueducts and closets of the past, the interesting explorations into word and custom derivations, the highly individual ideas on literary and historical events in terms of bodily and sanitary functioning - all combine to put this in the class of *The Specialist*, but this truly elevates foul matters. NOT for the prudish.

~~April 19~~ May 3

Campbell, Helen Jones DIARY OF A WILLIAMSBURG HOSTESS Putnam $3.00

The diary of a present day, war-efforteering Williamsburg hostess which in all the quaintness of the 18th century manner and mannerisms, sets forth the daily dozen of a wife and mother who took on "Our Visitors" to Williamsburg. The apprehension attendant upon her acceptance as Hostess, the study course and processing which included her Colonial Costume, then the influx of visitors- their commentary and conduct. At home, the disapproval of Husband, the crises precipitated by young daughter Alice, the assistance of dark Florrie and her niece, the Aunts, and in particular her Uncle Dab, "unreconstructed and unrestored". A local lady's light talk, which, if you can get past the coy cuteness, may have a sort of southern snob appeal.

~~April 22~~ 5/20

The Story of the Helicopter:

Francis, Devon AVIATION'S UGLY DUCKLING Coward-McCann $3.00

This is a good job of coverage, in popular vein, of the helicopter's story, past, present and future. The author of *Aviation; What Every One Should Know*, aviation editor of the A.P., does a creditable service to dozens of relatively unknown inventors by relating the important part each played, even through his failures, in the general pattern of helicopter development. The present and future possibilities of the machine are soberly evaluated, leaving the reader with an attitude of suspended decision about that block of helicopter stock he was planning to buy. Illus. with photos.

Moorehead, Alan ECLIPSE Coward-McCann $2.75

A review of the final stages of the war, by a longterm war correspondent of the London *Daily Express*, from Taormina, Sicily, to the invasion of Northern France, the crossing of the Rhine, the occupation of central Germany, to the liberation in Denmark, that manages many small details in a large camera focus. Here, with all the military strategy and importance, are the various phases of collapse, from the political to the emotional, the setbacks, the carry-through, the results of the successes. It is a book of excellent reporting, penetrative observation, and gives more than one clue to the chaos of those times, for the intimate knowledge and the personal experiences of the actual events are vivid and memorable. For an overall picture, this, to date, is worthy coverage.

April 25

Knauth, Percy GERMANY IN DEFEAT Knopf
$2.75

A forceful, realistic piece of reportage which holds the German race, as well as the Big Three, responsible for Nazism- by a *Time-Life* correspondent who followed the invading armies into crumbling Germany. Here are many inside stories--- the fall of Nurnberg as told by the civilian negotiator of the surrender; an account of the July 20th attempt on Hitler's life by a survivor; Hitler's suicide in Berlin as told by his chauffeur. From his travels over defeated Germany, Knauth provides first hand accounts of Berchtesgaden, Buchenwald, the destruction of Frankfurt, the calm, hopeless reason of German youth, Kesselring's surrender in the Tyrol. Here too is much of the controversial-- the labeling of Martin Niemoeller as a Christian martyr but essentially a Nazi, the Church as the unifying and moral power in Germany, vindication of Allied bombing of non-military targets, the mass indictment of the German people. Rather unpleasant for the "ostrich" readers- but important.

Mathers, E. Powys LOVE SONGS OF ASIA Knopf
~~$2.00~~ 2.50

This is an interesting, if brief, collection of Asiatic love poetry. It includes, besides some of the more familiar type of Chinese love lyrics and short Japanese poems, longer and more elaborate examples of Arabian, Burmese, Hindustan and Afghanistan poems. These are, I am sure, quite new to most English readers. If the Chinese and Japanese poems with their brief and touching allusiveness appeal more, it is perhaps because we are more familiar with this form; the longer, less well known pieces are certainly arresting. Here, some of the growing interest in Far Eastern literature can be satisfied, and what is more, many of these poems give a kind of absolute poetic pleasure; to mention one especially, *The Dalliance of Leopards* from the Sanskrit of the Fifth Century.

Somerhausen, Anne WRITTEN IN DARKNESS Knopf
$3.00

The diary of a woman in Belgium, from 1940 to 1945, through the years of invasion, resistance, terror and eventual liberation. Here is the already familiar outline of life under the Germans, of the political and economic administration, controls, deceptions; inflation, money and food shortages; anti-semitism in increasing violence; black markets, resistance and reprisals, deaths and deportations. But it is also a responsive, personal account of her own family, her husband- Mark- in a prison camp, her three boys- and particularly Luke, the youngest, who wastes away on the starvation rations and almost dies, but finally regains his health through kindly people in the country. And it is lastly Mrs. Somerhausen's own story, as she rents out rooms, sells her belongings, takes a job, and consistently compels admiration. Although the market for this type of book has been taxed, this is a modest, modulated and moving record.

Soupault, Philippe AGE OF ASSASSINS Knopf
$3.00

The memoirs of a French newspaperman in Tunis of his six months' imprisonment by the Vichy government. Convicted by a military tribunal the author was interned as a political prisoner and his story is that of his fellow Vichy dissidents, the half world characters of the French Legion, the persecuted colonials of Africa, the de Gaullists, royalists- whether legitimists or the adherents of the Count of Paris. Soupault was set apart as a novice in the art of political dissension, but during his imprisonment he met underground politicians who were experts in agitation and propaganda even in prison and who fought to the death for their convictions with never a loss of faith. A study of the prison mentality, the escape from the boredom of routine in daydreams- in reading. Random reminiscences- of a very special nature.

~~April 25~~ 6/20

Landstrom, Russell THE ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS ANNUAL: 1945 Rinehart $3.50

Condensed and compiled from the despatches of the A.P. correspondents, (and with photographs by their men) this is the story of the year 1945 reconstructed from those communiques which originally ran to many million words- and now runs to some seven hundred pages- which is still a quite sizeable proposition. Here, month by month, are all areas of activity, primarily military, diplomatic and political- but with a resume of less significant, more localized events and personalities, literary, theatrical, fashion, food, crime, etc. There is also at the close of each monthly section a day by day selection of despatches. All in all, an assimilation of news into literary newsreel- for the record- though one questions if this can be used for final reference.

April 26

Mahler, Alma GUSTAV MAHLER Viking $5.00

This is a book that will arouse a good deal of interest in musical circles. It is the story of the great Austrian composer, Gustav Mahler's life from 1901 until his death in 1911 as recorded by his wife, Alma Schindler Mahler, more recently the widow of Franz Werfel. Alma Schindler married Mahler when she was a girl of about eighteen and he had already reached his middle forties. She apparently kept some sort of diary of their musical doings from then until his death. The book consists of this factual record along with a number of more personal memories. Despite the fact it is an almost unbelievably uninspired piece of writing, and exhibits a certain incapacity on the part of the wife to gauge or appreciate the stature of her husband, it is a touching story and reveals some very interesting glimpses of Mahler. Not the least touching aspect is his devotion to his young and beautiful and uncomprehending wife, for the two children she bore him. The last section of the book is devoted to some of Mahler's correspondence, with Schoenberg, Busoni, Thomas Mann, etc. Mahler has always had a small coterie of devoted admirers. Recently this has grown to a much wider audience, who will want to read this book.

April ??

de Marigny, Count Alfred MORE DEVIL THAN SAINT Bernard Ackerman $3.00

The prissy to hypocritical autobiography of a dandy who wove his way precariously through cosmopolitan circles until he was floored by the murder of his father-in-law, Sir Harry Oakes. After a flare up with his father, he left his home on the island of Mauritius for Paris- where he reluctantly succumbed to the advances of a Parisienne. At a convenient moment he left her for London, where, by making capital of his obscure title, he crashed London society. This life of parties, women and drink soon brought him to Nassau, and after discarding his most recent wife, he finally fell game to Nancy Oakes, a marriage of quarrels which ended in the murder of Nancy's father, and de Marigny's final acquittal. Self-portrait of a lush, with only vicarious values.

Simonson, Lee UNTENDED GROVE 5/2 Duell, Sloan & Pearce $2.00

An inexcusable- and equally inconsequential- collection of so-called poems by the well-known scene designer and theatre art critic. Occasional and haphazard pieces of free verse written in moments of enthusiasm about this friend or that, or inspired by this or that political or semi-amorous reaction, the market is very limited.

~~April 77~~ 6/14

Zacharoff, Lucien-*Ed.* VITAL PROBLEMS OF AIR COMMERCE Duell, Sloan & Pearce $3.00

Discussion, by experts, officers, specialists, in air, rail, water and motor transportation, of the part of the airplane in commerce, in public and private life, that emphasizes the importance of aviation in all its phases. Domestic and international, plans, policies, legislation, financing, legal problems, etc., the questions of fuel, airports, routes, passenger and freight transportation, combinations of sea-air, rail-air possibilities, foreign trade, and much else are the subjects of various papers. No interpretation, by the editor, the articles and their recommendations speak for themselves, and are aimed toward that public which has an immediate concern in aviation of the future.

Green, Peyton SAN ANTONIO 4/29 definite Whittlesey $3.00

Personalized portraiture of Texas, that state of mind, in all its self-sufficiency, self-satisfaction (which makes the Texan a very independent individual) and of San Antonio, its holy city. Here is the history of the cow capital, from its fighting days which were many and much celebrated, through the wild and wicked '80's, to the present when Texas is just about as ornery--- its mixed society of army, oil and cattle men, its leading family- the Mavericks, its Mexican population and slums. Here, with the war, is her contemporary crime wave with sin, sex and syphilis on a sharp ascendant; her politics, machine made and kept just that way; her food, her religious and educational organizations, etc. A colorful, but by no means clouded, appreciation of the Texan and his home city, the vigor, violence, and just plain cussedness which conditions him. Lively.

May 9

Eldridge, Fred WRATH IN BURMA Doubleday $3.00

A sharp, severe picture of a great general and the war in the CBI theatre, this is the story of "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell from his defeat in Burma through the treachery of the allies, to his recall in 1945 at the request of Chiang Kai-Shek. The tenacious, unrelenting general had in Burma the toughest assignment of the war, from military and political standpoints. For an army he had untrained, ill-equipped men, and for Allies, China and Britain who were intent on fighting a "cheap" war. The British did all they could to sabotage Stilwell's conquest of Burma, the building of the Stilwell road, the training of a Chinese army, because a weak China and a strong Japan as a threat to Russia was Churchill's foreign policy. Chiang's plan was to encourage lend-lease, but to save it for the all-out battle with the Communists after the Americans had defeated the Japanese. Stilwell's mission was to exert all possible pressure to make the Chinese and British fight, and here is the story of that mission with all its treachery, courage and hearbreak. Important in its expose, revealing.

May ~~10~~ 16

Shridharani, Krishnalal THE MAHATMA AND THE WORLD Duell, Sloan & Pearce $3.50

A penetrating, disinterested evaluation of one of the world's most mysterious personalities, here is the saintly, ascetic figure of the East who leaves his mark on our civilization though living by his own unorthodox code. Generally misunderstood in the West, Gandhi's views on politics, diet, sex, medicine, education, religion, birth control, white superiority, etc. are explained here in Occidental terms.

The inspirer of spiritual fervor and faith in the Hindus of India, Gandhi is revealed as the unworldly admirer of Thoreau, Tolstoy, Mazzini,- the apostle of the horizontal religion of man and man's salvation in the present. Shridharani provides also the historical background, Gandhi's early years in India, the child marriage, the study of law at London's Inner Temple, a law mission to Africa, his rise to prominence as a Hindu leader, the triumphant return to India, the imprisonments, the leadership of passive resistance. The ideas, rather than the man, interpreted by a leading writer.

May 17

Hancock, Ralph OPPORTUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA Duell, Sloan & Pearce
$3.00 3.00

An examination, optimistic in tone, of the potential markets, anticipated purchases, and aggressive industrial expansion of the Americas to the south of us following this war, that recapitulates the advances before the war, the blocks and impetus during the war, and forecasts the large programs, needs, accelerated consumption for after the war. Here are the facts and figures of work in progress, and proposed, in social welfare, transportation and communication, manufactured power, agriculture, mining and petroleum, forest, fisheries, travel and trade, in general and in particular for individual countries. There are rules of conduct for U.S. enterprises for mutual advantage; there is analysis of the growth of the countries' economic independence and intercountry trade. A book for the international business man, to be checked (it is advised) against changes as they come along. More than just a statistical, factual guide, this interpretation of the commercial picture (if actually authentic) offers a promising challenge to this country. (The author is a resident news correspondent.)

May 17

Lockridge, Richard & McKeogh, Michael SERGEANT MICKEY AND GENERAL IKE Putnam
$2.00

Here, in the words of the G.I. who served him- and loved him- is General Eisenhower, who remained a hero to his valet, Sergeant Mickey, his personal orderly, a little boy from Queens who got his big break when he was assigned to Eisenhower just before the war- down in Texas. Here is The Boss, as he followed him to Washington, London, North Africa, and finally France during the big show. Here are some of his less familiar, more personal predilections; food- and kitchens; westerns; baths; houses which seem homelike, and Mickey's efforts to supply the small comforts whenever possible. Here also is Mickey's girl, Pearlie, the Wac he met in North Africa, married in France just before the von Rundstedt winter offensive- and the reception Eisenhower gave them both. A nice naivete, (deliberately) ingenuous interpretation of a great man as he seemed to lesser folk, whose admiration is certainly catching, warming.

~~May 20~~ June 17

Broeg, Bob & Burrill, Bob DON'T BRING THAT UP Barnes
$2.50

An athletic chamber of horrors containing almost all, it seems of the bonehead plays or actions of outstanding athletes in all fields of sport. Remember the center who ran to his opponents' goal and almost made a touchdown in a Rose Bowl game,- the player who forgot to touch second losing a National League Championship,- the great pro who dubbed his last hole like a duffer throwing away a sure thing national championship. The authors have combed every sport for individuals and teams that are "infamous" and in the record book for having done the wrong thing. A little goes a long way- and sports readers usually prefer successes to reverses.

~~May 21~~ ~~19~~ 6/4

Whittlesey, Charles S. NATIONAL INTEREST AND CARTELS Macmillan $2.50

An exceedingly fair presentation of the value and importance of cartels, at times building up a good case for them but concluding definitely that they are not for us- even though at times this may injure our foreign trade. Whittlesey shows how cartels made Germany a powerful industrial state, and though they provide a certain sense of security for big business, he feels they lessen incentive, restrict production, impede international trade and interfere with effective operation of price system. He believes that if we ever decide to surrender our free enterprise, surrender will be made to chosen representatives of the government and not to private monopolists. A book largely for those interested in foreign trade- for economists- etc.

May 27

Bonsal, Stephen SUITORS AND SUPPLIANTS Prentice-Hall $3.50

In 1944 Doubleday published Stephen Bonsal's *Unfinished Business*, the story of the Paris Peace Conference in which Bonsal, as interpreter to House and Wilson, was intimately involved. Here, from his diary, is further amplification of that material- some of which precedes it in time-- the early stages of the diplomatic battles in which each country sued for justice in its own interests,- the graveyard sessions of the Peace. The negotiations with the Russians, white and red; the Arab bid for freedom and Lawrence; the Zionists and the much promised land; the controversy over Fiume; the much divided Ukrainians; the abandonment of the Armenians, one of the great failures and disgraces of the Conference; the Poles, Greeks, Rumanians; the emergence of Czechoslovakia; the trouble spots, Schleswig-Holstein, Korea, the Rhineland. A book important in that it offers additional, extenuating source material, but too detailed a documentary for the general market, particularly in the wake of *Unfinished Business* and the many Wilson items of the last year.

Bainbridge, John LITTLE WONDER Reynal-Hitchcock $2.00

* Here, in book form, are the profiles (from the *New Yorker*) of that publishing phenomenon, *The Reader's Digest* in which the smoothest scalpel in the world is applied to what is probably the biggest bogus proposition in print. In a scrutiny, (based on a two year investigation) which ranges from acid analysis to polite parody, is the Digest's Wally, who operates globally, thinks locally; his magazine, which is a direct reflection of his capsulated opinions, his philanthropic philosophy. This too is the story of the "little journal for a fast-moving world" and how it grew, of its circulation which shares honors only with the Bible, its translations in many foreign lands where it has proved internationally irresistible. There are the articles as they originate- with Wally- as they are planted and peddled to other vehicles- thereby ensuring conformity to the Digest's particular formula, and faith. And this is Chappaqua, U.S.A., home of the Digest and its employees, as viewed by a citizen from the Soviet in a reverse on Digest correspondent W.L. White's *Report from the Russians*..... A lovely, lethal job, this is annihilation at its most amusing, and in spite of its rather special angle, may very well catch on.

~~June~~ ~~July~~ August 19
~~May~~ ??

Kao, George-*Ed.* CHINESE WIT AND HUMOR Coward-McCann $3.75

A comprehensive, chronological collection of periods and types of Chinese literary and popular humor, that is ably introduced both by the editor and Dr. Lin, who make clear the differences and resemblances in this nation's choice of

things that amuse. From the classics, Confucius, Mencius, Chuangtze, Leihtze, Hanfeitze, to modern times, from the old picaresque to the chapters from longer books, from popular jokes to serious messages concealed in witty sayings- this gives some idea of the droll pervasiveness of Chinese humor, and how it sometimes parallels, sometimes diverges from our western conceptions. A book whose editing is helpful in its explanations and notes, whose value lies in its unique presentation of yet another facet of the Chinese people and in its assemblage of typical examples in all eras.

May ??

Hibben, Frank C. THE LOST AMERICANS Crowell $2.50

The story of recent archaeological discoveries in this country establishing the first proof that prehistoric Americans existed- by an anthropology professor of the University of New Mexico. The first evidence of primitive man, a fossilized Taylor's bison with man-made flint points, was found in Folsom, New Mexico in 1927 and set archaeologists on a trail which led to the discovery of the Sandia caveman and the Yuma man. In Alaska the author found conclusive proof that the lost American reached this continent via the Berin Straits, discounting Atlantis, the Lost Continent of Mu, the Pacific Islands, Japan as the source of the American. Specialized, but readable, and important in the field.

Orska, Irene SILENT IS THE VISTULA Longmans, Green $3.00

An heroic story of the abortive Warsaw uprising by a woman who served as a nurse and officer in the secret Polish Home Army. A member of the underground since 1939, the author set up a first aid station at the beginning of the proposed five day revolt which was to terminate with the entry of Russian forces into the capital. There she fought death and disease, saved her thirteen year old daughter, stayed with front line soldiers besieging the German stronghold for 63 days- until they were finally defeated. Here is the horror of crawling through Warsaw sewers, cleaning infested wounds, gathering the dead off the streets under fire, for which she won Poland's highest decoration, the Cross of Valor. Although this book deals with one of the most bitter, most tragic phases of the war, there is no attempt to lay blame on either the Russians or the London Poles. A small, personal story of one of the war's many unsung heroes.

Hausman, Leon Augustus FIELD BOOK OF EASTERN BIRDS ~~5/31~~ 6/28 Putnam $3.~~50~~ 75

An addition to the *Putnam Field Books*, a handbook which makes possible immediate identification of the bird as each description is matched by a drawing. Concise, comprehensive information on appearance, attitude, habitat, call notes, in brief diagnosis. A standard book for use and reference.

Loo, Pin-Fei IT IS DARK UNDERGROUND 5/17 Putnam $2.75

A young Chinese writes of the work of the special youth group and its career of terrorism against the Japs, in the late '30's, as he and his comrades organized to bring what destruction they could to the enemy. A youthful testimony of violence, that views death as a fair price for victory, however small, that tells of arson, bombing, murder and arbitrary justice, in terms of dedication to a belief, and makes vivid the reason why, though the Chinese were defeated. The picture of the inventiveness of this specialized guerilla activity, of espionage, of the undercover secrecy, is real, and often grim, and the book adds another note to the history of Chinese fortitude and courage.

May ~~??~~ 31

McDermand, Charles WATERS OF THE GOLDEN TROUT COUNTRY Putnam $3.50

The grandeur of the High Sierra country, the fascination of fishing, combined in these leisurely accounts of a back-pack fisherman as he explored the unspoiled waters of the Sierra mountain lakes. A long trip alone exploring the John Muir trail and its many lakes, a trek up the San Joaquin to the Glacier Divide, Talainyo- the highest lake in the United States, the many, many lakes and the profuse catches offered of goldens, rainbows, silvers, etc. etc. The book concludes with notes on routes, trails, and equipment, with an itemization of the lakes and the types of fish harbored. For fans.

O'Hara, Eliot WATERCOLOR AT LARGE 5/31 Putnam $3.00

A teacher and artist writes simply, flexibly of water coloring in a fifth book ofprecept- this time emphasizing the wide field of experiment open to watercolorists today, since there is a renaissance in watercolor painting. Materials- and their selection, mixing paint, on to the less tangible aspects of techniques and approaches, color, lighting, texture, rhythm, mood, and the new trends- with a few parting words on collectors, dealers and purchases. A short handbook, which will have 30 illustrations in full color.

Practically Published

Cleveland, Reginald M. & Latham, Frank B. JOBS AHEAD Appleton-Century $2.50

Facts about futures ahead, in a survey of various fields and their ramifications to indicate where the jobs are, what they are, why they are there, and who can fill them. Not a catalogue of openings and opportunities, but general coverage of industrial and economic enterprise (not the arts, or professions- save medicine), in science, health care, physics, radio, engineering, building, conservation, transportation, distribution. Adequate. (3/22)

De Kerillis, Henri I ACCUSE DE GAULLE Harcourt, Brace $2.75

Written, as it was, before the defeat of De Gaulle, this denunciation of the former French leader loses- to an extent- its purpose. It remains, however, a passionate polemic against the man- and the legend, shows him up as a careerist rather than a patriot, a military man who took advantage of the war to seize power illegally. De Gaulle is seen as surrounded by Cagoulards, as a disastrous administrator in the Colonies, in Syria; as anti-American in his press, his conduct; as a danger to the Allied cause in his attitude towards Darlan, Giraud; and perhaps most guilty in his destruction of the French Army- his failure to appear in the Battle of Normandy. The impression of De Gaulle has tended to be that of a sincere army man, a poor politician and a disliked one. This however indicts him on all scores, if perhaps unduly. (3/21)

Weygandt, Cornelius ON THE EDGE OF EVENING Putnam $3.50

The fruitful life of a Pennsylvania teacher, writer and philosopher who looks to the past for our national culture,-- in the personal, rambling style of the essayist. Written with the purpose of filling out a biographical background for his many regional and literary books, this covers his schooling, his jobs, his Pennsylvania Dutch heritage, his interest in antiques, folklore, his friendships with Yeats, Noyes, Frost, Masefield, the many years of teaching and writing at the University of Pennsylvania. Here is his philosophy of education, his curriculum, his methods of teaching, the influence of Wordsworth, Thoreau, and the King James Bible, his love of chicken raising, his dog, birds and birdsong. Introspective, leisurely, literary. (3/22)

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

Page

Samuel Curl

Allan, Glenn. - BOYSI HIMSELF- from 1/2 to 4/1 528

John Day

Hagedorn, H. - AMERICANS- Price from $4.00 to $5.00 541

Doubleday

Abbott, Leonard-*Ed.* - MASTERWORKS OF ECONOMICS- from 3/21 to 4/18 29
Lamb, H.- ALEXANDER OF MACEDON- from 4/4 to 4/18 117
MacDonald, W.C.- WHEELS IN THE DUST - from 4/4 to 4/18 113
Waldeck, Countess R.G.- LUSTRE IN THE SKY- price from $3.00 to $2.75 110

Duell, Sloan & Pearce

O'Hara, John- HERE'S O'HARA- from 4/10 to 5/?? 78

L. B. Fischer

Erskine, D. - THE CRYSTAL BOAT- from 4/8 to 3/26 48
Kesten, H. - THE TWINS OF NUREMBERG- from 5/25 to 4/29 20
Welch, Denton - IN YOUTH IS PLEASURE- from 2/24 to 3/25 3
Note: This firm will be taken over by A.A.Wyn (Current Books)

Harper

Carr, John D. - HE WHO WHISPERS- from 3/13 to 3/27 25

Lippincott

Whelton, P. - CALL THE LADY INDISCREET- from 3/13 to 4/17 50

Little, Brown

Godden, Rumer - THUS FAR AND NO FURTHER- from 4/2 to 5/2 60
Haycox, E. - LONG STORM- from 5/2 to 5/22 110
Stilwell, Sir. O. - THE SCARLET TREE- from 5/1 to 5/22 120

McBride

Chance, John N. - DEATH STALKS THE COBBLED SQUARE- from 3/30 to 4/?? 82
Lowden, Leone - PROVING GROUND- from 3/15 to 3/29 21

Norton

Hume, E.H. - DOCTORS EAST, DOCTORS WEST. Definite date 5/3. Winner of the Norton Medical Award 1946 93

Random House

Eberhart, Mignon - FIVE PASSENGERS FROM LISBON- definite date 4/23 51
Hurok & Goode - IMPRESARIO- definite date 4/30 63
Jeffers, Robinson - MEDEA- from 2/?? to 4/16 56

Whittlesey House

Gould, R.E. - YANKEE STOREKEEPER- from 4/2 to 4/15. Price from $2.25 to $2.50 60

BULLETIN from

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service & 38 Bank Street

VOL. XIV March 15, 1946 No. 6

SPRING JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT: No. 5

In collaboration with Nina Schneider

PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Hogan, Inez — NAPPY CHOOSES A PET — Dutton $1.00

Another in the Nappy series. Nappy and his sister visit their grandparents' farm and come away with a colt, a lamb, and a cat. A pet show, a runaway colt, and a sleuthing kitten who finds the runaway, are the ingredients of the plot. Inez Hogan's stories and pictures have a sure audience. Possible material for young readers, as well as for the picture story age. Boards. (4/8)

Bannon, Laura — RED MITTENS — Houghton, Mifflin $1.50

An engagingly written, illustrated charmingly by the author, story about Little Joe and the search for his red mittens. The boy is very sad until the kind hen, the friendly cat and the wideawake cow join the search party and find the mittens in a strange and funny place. Unusually attractive scratchboard illustrations in black and red. Sturdy cloth and board binding. (Publ.)

Steiner, Charlotte & Sterling, Helen — CHOO CHOO 'ROUND THE WORLD — Reynal & Hitchcock $1.00

A gadget book, showing a cutout train puffing its way through the desert, the arctic, Mexico, China, etc. Friendly, attractive illustrations by Miss Steiner, in full color, and a simple tale in four-line verses by Miss Sterling, make this saleable merchandise.

McElravy, May E. — TORTILLA GIRL — Whitman $1.25

The bright, colorful illustrations of Laura Bannon add much to this story of Lupe and her attempts to buy a long haired dog, and the unexpected realization of her dream. No dog is quite right, and when she does find the right one, her discovery of an old Indian metate, for grinding the meal for tortillas, is the means of her owning it, and winning the prize for the longest-haired dog in the annual Parade. Simple descriptions of Mexican life in New Mexico and a variety of incidents make this a possibility for the next older group. (Pub'l.)

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD (6-9)

Walsh, Mary — THE MULLINGAR HEIFER — Knopf $1.50

* There is a wistful, poignant, quality in this Irish tale of a lonely boy, a goldenhaired girl, and a sweet little grandmother, all of whom got their wishes. Satisfying, imaginative, and distinctive, this is an unusual juvenile. Henry C. Pitz' black-and-white illustrations capture the tender mood of the story. Excellent library and gift material. Sturdy cloth and board binding, good clear type, attractive format. A book also for the 8-11 group. (Pub'l.)

Selsam, Millicent E. EGG TO CHICK Young World Books $1.00

A simple, colorful exposition of the development of an egg into a chicken, that is a real contribution to beginning science. A clear text, accompanied by rather simple illustrations by Frances Wells, appropriately done in egg-yolk yellow, red and black. We like the straight-forward, attractive fact books that are being turned out by this publisher. Cloth. (3/29)

FICTION FOR 8 - 11

Harper, Wilhelmina - *Ed.* WHERE THE REDBIRD FLIES Dutton $2.00

Another of the "Our States In Story" series, by the editor of *Yankee Yarns*, which was a collection of stories from the Northeastern States. This volume selects dramatic and colorful tales from the Southeastern States, which include Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia and Florida. Both historic and modern, these tales try to acquaint young readers with the vivid and authentic background material of this section of the country, through the medium of a variety of short stories. Illustrated by George Avison. Good library, school and gift material. (4/8)

McSwigan, Marie HI, BARNEY! Dutton $2.00

Story of a friendly boy's adjustment to life in his grandmother's house. Barney's father is an R. A. F. flyer, his mother is doing her part in Washington, and Barney's loneliness disappears as he makes friends with the children of the neighborhood in Pittsburgh. The boy's happiness is complete when his father returns from the war to confront the skeptical schoolmates who never believed Barney's stories of his hero father. Somehow undistinguished. Illustrated Corinne Dillon. (4/8)

Kiviat, Esther PAJI Whittlesey House $2.00

* There is unusually attractive bookmaking in this Junior Literary Guild selection. Paji is a Ceylonese boy who longs to carve beautiful and original things instead of the endless chain of elephants produced by his fellow villagers. He runs away to live in a lovely abandoned temple in the forest, accompanied only by Push-ba, his gentle, dish-faced bullock. His winning of the big prize for woodcarving reunites him with his no longer scoffing family. Extraordinarily sensitive and beautiful illustrations in full color by Harold Price help to make this an exceedingly good juvenile, and excellent merchandise, as well as fine background material for libraries and schools. (~~3/26~~) 4-8

FACT BOOKS FOR THE 8 - 11's

Edelstadt, Vera OCEANS IN THE SKY Knopf $1.75

This is the story of water's part in weather, power, transportation and conservation. Done in the odd free-verse form of the author's previous book, *Black Magic, The Story of Smoke*. The jacket blurb calls this a "thumbnail survey, that presents a tremendous story in simple terms". We feel, however, that the simplicity is only superficial, and that the book tackles too many fundamentals to be a comprehensible juvenile. Nevertheless, the factual material and the easy, free-style black and white illustrations by Louis Bunin, give this some value for schools and libraries. Fair merchandise. (4/25)

TWELVE TO FIFTEEN - Fiction

von Tempski, Armine — BRIGHT SPURS — Dodd, Mead $2.00

A healthy enthusiasm and exuberance for this story of Gay, 17 and Cherry, 15, who at the death of their father, return to the ranch in Hawaii to make money by dude ranching and guiding tourists up the mountain to an historic crater. Independent and game, Gay and Cherry make the best of no money, departing servants, disapproving relatives, and have a first year of very stiff work with very successful results which enable them to save the capital to buy the ranch - and carry on. An active story of two energetic and determined youngsters, with Hawaii, lots of it, providing an extremely decorative decor. There is an authentic feeling, since the original material is in her own autobiographical, adult books. (4/19)

Lambert, Janet — UP GOES THE CURTAIN — Dutton $2.00

Janet Lambert's teen-age books for girls have a sure appeal. Here Penny Parrish finds herself a budding young actress, fresh from a summer's work in a stock company. A variety of men interested in her, a bit of a spy hunt when she visits her home in Fort Knox, the intricacies of a play opening on Broadway, and the background texture of a family involved in the war in the best Army tradition, are sure-fire ingredients for this audience. (4/8)

Darling, Esther Birdsall — BORIS: Grandson of Baldy — Knopf $2.00

Taken over from Wm. Penn Publishing Corp., this is a new edition of this 1936 title, the sequel to the well-known *Baldy of Nome*. The constant use of the word "Bolshie" grates on the ears today, but the story of the boy-dog rescue will still appeal to the adventurous minded. Illus. Hattie Longstreet. (4/25)

Knight, Clayton — THE QUEST OF THE GOLDEN CONDOR — Knopf $2.50

H. T. award

* An unusual setting in the Inca ruins of the west coast of South America helps to make this an interesting adventure story. An archaeologist, his two sons, and some good South American friends, attempt to get a fabulously beautiful Golden Condor for an American Museum. They are trailed, plotted against, and almost destroyed by a pair of unscrupulous rogues who do not quite succeed in attaining, by deceit, what the American archaeologist and his sons want to bring back to their country. A happy ending, of course. Authentic and unspoiled background give this good adventure story special appeal. Illustrated by the author. (4/25)

TWELVE TO FIFTEEN - Non-Fiction

Whitman, Walt — I HEAR THE PEOPLE SINGING — Young World Books $1.75

A selection of Walt Whitman's poetry, introduced, with an appreciation, by Langston Hughes. It is divided into three general headings, with many complete poems, and excerpts;- *Songs of Men and Women, Songs of America,* and *Songs of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln.* The inclusions have a particularly modern appeal, and are in clear type. Black and white illustrations are by Alexander Dobkin. (4/15)

FICTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Fast, Howard THE AMERICAN Duell, Sloan & Pearce $2.75

One of the most misunderstood, hated, worshipped men in American politics - John Peter Altgeld - is the subject of this compelling, timely book, and through Altgeld's story, in success and defeat, is the picture of the people's stake in democracy. The man who dared make enemies, who dared challenge, who risked political oblivion to cast his lot with justice and the people, is ably and vigorously brought to life. (For full report in adult section, see P. 107) (5/15)

NON-FICTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Ratcliff, J. D. - *Ed.* SCIENCE YEAR BOOK 1946 Doubleday $2.50

An annual, important now that some of the discoveries of the war are released. Topics connected with the atomic age, miscellaneous inventions, discoveries in medicine and surgery, new processes and treatments, agriculture and allied subjects, have their share of attention because of their immediate interest. (4/18) (For full report in adult section, see P. 118)

Nutchuk (with Alden Hatch) BACK TO THE SMOKY SEA Messner $2.50

Nutchuk, the Eskimo musician, lecturer, and explorer, writes his second volume of personal biography (the first, *Son of the Smoky Sea*, 1941). Here he tells of his experiences as a pianist in a race-conscious country, his happy, but ill fated marriage, his wandering years, which ended when he enlists in the U. S. Army after the Japs have attacked his home islands. Appreciative of his cultural heritage as a member of a waning race, he decides to devote his energies to recording the music and story of his home and people. Another marriage and the determination to return to the North to live for always brings the wanderer the full circle. The details of life in the North and of its folkways are interesting, but there is slight dramatic content. Those who knew and liked the author's first book will want to know more of Nutchuk. (4/?)

Rouchaud, Martine THE TIME OF OUR LIVES Pantheon $2.75

* Not only an intimate picture of French family life, new angle on refugees under German occupation, but a report from a new generation, to whom the constant moving, adopted homes, new places and people, brought some alleviation to the emotional strain of the tragedies they saw, heard and even experienced. There is zest in change, in the enchantment of travel, even with its hardships, they glory in their scavenging, in their evasion of the Nazis, and young Martine tells the story of her family in their wanderings with guileless charm and disarming simplicity. Something different in war stories. (For full report in adult section, see P. 120) (4/??)

Van Gelder, Robert WRITING AND WRITERS Scribner $3.00

From the *Times* book review supplement, these interviews with authors on their craft, which combine to make valuable reference material for writers to be, and writing classes. For, among a varied collection of authors, there is not only material on writing routines, but biographical notes, hobbies, interests, criticism and opinion, that help to fill in the literary scene. Covers a wide area in the writing world of this generation. (For full report in adult section, see P. 116) (3/??)